

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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:  
STRIKE 3 HOLDINGS, LLC, :  
Plaintiff, : Case No.  
vs. :  
Defendant. :  
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Plaintiff, Strike 3 Holdings, LLC, brings this complaint against John Doe subscriber assigned IP address 96.224.192.42, and alleges as follows:

**Introduction**

1. This is a case about the ongoing and wholesale copyright infringement of Plaintiff's motion pictures by Defendant, currently known only by an IP address.
2. Plaintiff, Strike 3 Holdings, LLC ("Plaintiff") is the owner of award winning, critically acclaimed adult motion pictures.
3. Plaintiff's motion pictures are distributed through the *Blacked*, *Tushy*, *Vixen*, and *Blacked Raw* adult websites and DVDs. With more than 20 million unique visitors to its websites each month, the brands are famous for redefining adult content, creating high-end, artistic, and performer-inspiring motion pictures produced with a Hollywood style budget and quality.
4. Defendant is, in a word, stealing these works on a grand scale. Using the BitTorrent protocol, Defendant is committing rampant and wholesale copyright infringement by downloading Plaintiff's motion pictures as well as distributing them to others. Defendant did not

infringe just one or two of Plaintiff's motion pictures, but has been recorded infringing 27 movies over an extended period of time.

5. Although Defendant attempted to hide this theft by infringing Plaintiff's content anonymously, the subscriber's Internet Service Provider ("ISP"), Verizon Online LLC (Verizon Fios), can identify Defendant, who is either the subscriber, or someone using his or her Internet through his or her IP address 96.224.192.42.

6. This is a civil action seeking damages under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq. (the "Copyright Act").

#### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question); and 28 U.S.C. § 1338 (jurisdiction over copyright actions).

8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant used an Internet Protocol address ("IP address") traced to a physical address that upon information and belief is located within this District to commit copyright infringement. Therefore (i) Defendant committed the tortious conduct alleged in this Complaint in this State; and, (ii) Defendant resides in this State and/or; (iii) Defendant has engaged in substantial – and not isolated – business activity in this State.

9. Because Plaintiff currently only knows Defendant by an IP address, Plaintiff used IP address geolocation technology by Maxmind Inc. ("Maxmind"), an industry-leading provider of IP address intelligence and online fraud detection tools, to determine that Defendant's IP address traced to a physical address that upon information and belief is located in this District. Over 5,000 companies, along with United States federal and state law enforcement, use

Maxmind's GeoIP data to locate Internet visitors, perform analytics, enforce digital rights, and efficiently route Internet traffic.

10. Maxmind is able to provide information about the location of an IP address to the zip or postal code level and identifies the associated ISP or organization.

11. Maxmind's accuracy is 99.8% accurate on a country level, 90% accurate on a state level in the United States, and 86% accurate to cities within the United States.

12. Upon receiving data from Plaintiff's investigator, Plaintiff inputted Defendant's IP address into Maxmind's database, which traced the location to within this Court's jurisdiction. Prior to filing this lawsuit, Plaintiff re-inputted Defendant's IP address into Maxmind's database to confirm that the location traced to within this Court's jurisdiction.

13. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c), venue is proper in this district because: (i) a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District; and, (ii) the Defendant resides (and therefore can be found) in this District and resides in this State. Additionally, venue is proper in this District pursuant 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) (venue for copyright cases) because Defendant or Defendant's agent resides or may be found in this District.

### **Parties**

14. Plaintiff is a Delaware limited liability company located at 2140 S. Dupont Hwy, Camden, DE.

15. Plaintiff currently can only identify Defendant by his or her IP address. Defendant's IP address is 96.224.192.42. Defendant's name and address can be provided by Defendant's Internet Service Provider.

## **Factual Background**

### ***Plaintiff's Award-Winning Copyrights***

16. Plaintiff's subscription based websites proudly boast a paid subscriber base that is one of the highest of any adult-content sites in the world. Plaintiff also licenses its motion pictures to popular broadcasters and Plaintiff's motion pictures are the number one selling adult DVDs in the United States.

17. Plaintiff's motion pictures and websites have won numerous awards, such as "best cinematography," "best new studio," and "adult site of the year." One of Plaintiff's owners, three-time director of the year Greg Lansky, was dubbed the adult film industry's "answer to Steven Spielberg."

18. Plaintiff's motion pictures have had positive global impact, leading more adult film studios to invest in better content, higher pay for performers, and to treat each performer with respect and like an artist.

19. Unfortunately, Plaintiff, like a large number of other makers of motion picture and television works, has a major problem with Internet piracy. Often appearing among the most infringed popular entertainment content on torrent websites, Plaintiff's motion pictures are among the most pirated content in the world.

### ***Defendant Used the BitTorrent File Distribution Network to Infringe Plaintiff's Copyrights***

20. BitTorrent is a system designed to quickly distribute large files over the Internet. Instead of downloading a file, such as a movie, from a single source, BitTorrent users are able to connect to the computers of other BitTorrent users in order to simultaneously download and upload pieces of the file from and to other users.

21. To use BitTorrent to download a movie, the user has to obtain a "torrent" file for

that movie, from a torrent website. The torrent file contains instructions for identifying the Internet addresses of other BitTorrent users who have the movie, and for downloading the movie from those users. Once a user downloads all of the pieces of that movie from the other BitTorrent users, the movie is automatically reassembled into its original form, ready for playing.

22. BitTorrent's popularity stems from the ability of users to directly interact with each other to distribute a large file without creating a heavy load on any individual source computer and/or network. It enables Plaintiff's motion pictures, which are often filmed in state of the art 4kHD, to be transferred quickly and efficiently. Moreover, BitTorrent is designed so that the more files a user offers for download to others, the faster the user's own downloads become. In this way, each user benefits from illegally distributing other's content and violating copyright laws.

23. Each piece of a BitTorrent file is assigned a unique cryptographic hash value.

24. The cryptographic hash value of the piece ("piece hash") acts as that piece's unique digital fingerprint. Every digital file has one single possible cryptographic hash value correlating to it. The BitTorrent protocol utilizes cryptographic hash values to ensure each piece is properly routed amongst BitTorrent users as they engage in file sharing.

25. The entirety of the digital media file also has a unique cryptographic hash value ("file hash"), which acts as a digital fingerprint identifying the digital media file (e.g. a movie). Once infringers complete the downloading of all pieces which comprise a digital media file, the BitTorrent software uses the file hash to determine that the file is complete and accurate.

26. Defendant used the BitTorrent file network to illegally download and distribute Plaintiff's copyrighted motion pictures.

27. Plaintiff's investigator, IPP International U.G. ("IPP") established direct TCP/IP

connections with the Defendant's IP address as outlined on Exhibit A while Defendant was using the BitTorrent file distribution network.

28. While Defendant was infringing, IPP downloaded from Defendant one or more pieces of the digital media files containing Plaintiff's motion pictures listed on Exhibit A ("Works").

29. A full copy of each digital media file was downloaded from the BitTorrent file distribution network, and it was confirmed through independent calculation that the file hash correlating to each file matched the file hash downloaded by Defendant.

30. Defendant downloaded, copied, and distributed a complete copy of Plaintiff's Works without authorization.

31. At no point was Plaintiff's copyrighted content uploaded by IPP to any BitTorrent user.

32. The digital media files have been verified to contain a digital copy of a motion picture that is identical (or alternatively, strikingly similar or substantially similar) to Plaintiff's corresponding original copyrighted Works.

33. Defendant's infringement is continuous, ongoing and causes Plaintiff to suffer damages. Absent this lawsuit, Plaintiff knows of no way to effectively prevent Defendant from infringing Plaintiff's motion pictures.

34. Internet piracy, and in particular BitTorrent piracy, is often a for-profit business. Many torrent sites generate millions of dollars in revenue through sales and advertising from the illegal theft of other's intellectual property.

35. To increase the value of advertising sold by torrent sites, the sites work relentlessly to illegally obtain and provide to its users new and compelling content while

ensuring a speed of accessibility that is difficult and expensive to match. In doing so, torrent sites often reward participants who contribute by giving them faster download speeds, greater access, or other incentives to pirate content.

36. Defendant's participation by distributing Plaintiff's pictures is the type of activity that torrent sites use to promote their businesses and likely contributes to the advertising revenue gained by the BitTorrent sites - revenue that is never given back to the content creators but, rather, is stolen from them.

37. Many parties, including possibly Defendant, have been compensated for their participation in expanding the availability of pirated content to others through BitTorrent networks, including with Plaintiff's works, even if only by being granted greater access to other pirated content.

38. The use of BitTorrent does more than cause harm through the simple theft of intellectual property. The BitTorrent distribution of pirated files is a model of business that profits from theft through sales and advertising and provides a system of rewards and compensation to BitTorrent participants, each of whom contributes to and furthers the illicit enterprise.

39. Plaintiff owns the copyrights to the Works and the Works have been registered with the United States Copyright Office. The United States Copyright Office registration information for the Works, including the registration number, is outlined on Exhibit A.

40. Plaintiff also has additional registrations for its motion pictures pending before the Copyright Office that are not named in this suit, but would be included in an amended filing should they be timely registered.

41. Plaintiff is entitled to seek statutory damages and attorneys' fees under 17 U.S.C.

§ 501 of the United States Copyright Act.

**COUNT I**

**Direct Copyright Infringement**

42. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1-41 are hereby re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

43. Plaintiff is the owner of the Works, which are original works of authorship.

44. Defendant copied and distributed the constituent elements of Plaintiff's Works using the BitTorrent protocol.

45. At no point in time did Plaintiff authorize, permit or consent to Defendant's copying and distribution of its Works, expressly or otherwise.

46. As a result of the foregoing, Defendant violated Plaintiff's exclusive right to:

(A) Reproduce its Works in copies, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(1) and 501;

(B) Distribute copies of the Works to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease or lending, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(3) and 501;

(C) Perform the copyrighted Works, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(4) and 501, by showing the Works' images in any sequence and/or by making the sounds accompanying the Works' audible and transmitting said performance of the work, by means of a device or process, to members of the public capable of receiving the display (as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 101's definitions of "perform" and "publicly" perform); and

(D) Display the copyrighted Works, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(5) and 501, by showing individual images of the works non-sequentially and transmitting said display of the works by means of a device or process to members of the public capable of receiving the display (as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 101's definition of "publicly" display).

47. Defendant's infringements were committed "willfully" within the meaning of 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

- (A) Permanently enjoin Defendant from continuing to infringe Plaintiff's copyrighted Works;
- (B) Order that Defendant delete and permanently remove the digital media files relating to Plaintiff's Works from each of the computers under Defendant's possession, custody or control;
- (C) Order that Defendant delete and permanently remove the infringing copies of the Works Defendant has on computers under Defendant's possession, custody or control;
- (D) Award Plaintiff statutory damages per infringed work pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(a) and (c);
- (E) Award Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505; and
- (F) Grant Plaintiff any other and further relief this Court deems just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: June 1, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

**FOX ROTHSCHILD, LLP**

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